



RTCA in Tennessee

The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. The National Park Service (NPS) staff provide technical assistance to community groups, city, county, tribal governments, and non-profit organizations working to enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation and natural resource conservation opportunities. We help local leaders plan and design trails and parks; conserve and improve access to natural areas; protect special places; and create recreation opportunities.

The RTCA program in Tennessee offers a wide range of services that can be tailored to meet the needs of an individual project. The NPS staff members are trained facilitators who encourage project leaders to build collaborative partnerships among governmental and non-governmental stakeholders. The program helps communities and groups define their vision, goals, and objectives; analyze issues and opportunities; and develop strategic action plans and time lines for projects. We do not provide financial assistance, but can help project partners identify and secure sources of funding and technical support.

Any community with committed project partners can apply for assistance. Believing the best plans are completed locally, the National Park Service will work with partners to encourage broad-based community participation in planning, designing, and implementing the projects we support.

In 2016, the National Park Service in Tennessee will work on a variety of projects including:

- **Grundy County Trail Development** – The project goal is to increase trail opportunities in Grundy County, Tennessee to promote more active lifestyles and recreation opportunities through the development of mountain bike trails. (Location: Grundy County, Tennessee)
- **Glass Street Connector Trail** – The project goal is to improve connection between the Historic Glass Street community and Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park's Sherman Reservation by cultivating undeveloped public land into a usable walking trail network. (Location: Chattanooga, Tennessee)
- **Hiwassee Blueway** – The project goal is to develop a nationally recognized water trail that provides opportunities for recreation, conservation, tourism and education while preserving the natural, historic, and cultural resources along the Hiwassee River. (Location: Bradley, McMinn, Meigs and Polk Counties, Tennessee)
- **Loudon County Greenways** – The project goal is to implement over 100 miles of trails throughout Loudon County, Tennessee as identified in the Greenways Master Plan developed by the PlanET Initiative. (Location: Loudon County, Tennessee)
- **Three Corners Regional Trails** – The project goal is to develop a regional master plan for the four-county, three state area surrounding Cumberland Gap National Historical Park with a focus on development and promotion of outdoor recreation possibilities such as hiking, biking, equestrian, off-highway vehicle and water trails. (Location: Claiborne County, Tennessee)



Paddlers on the Hiwassee Blueway

For more information about the RTCA program refer to: www.nps.gov/rtca, or for information about ongoing or potential RTCA projects in Tennessee contact:

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